



## Energy waste reduction at your business to lower your utility bills

Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) is becoming a top priority for Michigan businesses. Small changes add up to big savings. It's true: the cheapest energy is the energy you don't use.

### Ways to save:

- Tune up your heating, ventilating and air conditioning system annually, and regularly change filters, especially during the heating and cooling season.
- Turn off lights and other electronic equipment when not in use, and turn on the power management function on office computers.
- Adjust lighting to actual needs, optimizing the use of free daylight, and install switch plate occupancy sensors in proper locations.
- Install window films and add insulation or reflective roof coating to reduce energy waste.
- Educate staff about energy use and consider developing an energy team to pursue energy waste reduction.
- Save an estimated 10 percent a year on heating and cooling with a programmable thermostat.
- Install ENERGY STAR qualified lighting, exit signs and electronic equipment.
- Consider buying a laptop for your next computer upgrade: it uses much less energy than a desktop computer.
- Conduct an energy audit to identify areas where building systems have become inefficient over time to bring them back to peak performance.
- Replace equipment with more efficient equipment.
- **Cutting water use can cut energy bills, too:**
  - ◆ Repair leaking pipes, fixtures, and seals. Small leaks add up to many gallons of water and dollars wasted each month.
  - ◆ Use water-saving faucets, showerheads, toilets and urinals to save water.
  - ◆ Install controls that turn off faucets automatically.
  - ◆ Use plants native to your climate that require minimal watering and possess better pest resistance with landscaping. If local code allows, consider diverting "gray water" for irrigation.

## Other resources:

**Contact your local utility** for available energy waste reduction programs or rebates.

Visit the [Energy Waste Reduction](#) link at the **Michigan Public Service Commission** website at [www.michigan.gov/mpsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc)

Consider using [ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager](#), an online tool available at: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

The **Michigan Saves Business Energy Loan Program**, makes energy waste reduction improvements easy, affordable and smart. More information is available at the energy efficiency link at [www.michigansaves.org](http://www.michigansaves.org)

The [United States Department of Agriculture](#) Rural Energy for America Program provides energy waste reduction for agriculture and rural small businesses. More information is available at the [rd.usda.gov](http://rd.usda.gov)

Faith-based organizations: The mission of **Interfaith Power & Light** is to be faithful stewards by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy waste reduction, and renewable energy. Visit Interfaith Power and Light at [www.interfaithpowerandlight.org](http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org)

The **Property-Assessed Clean Energy Programs (PACE)** model is an innovative way that businesses and local officials can work together to pursue energy waste reduction projects that would not otherwise take place. See [www.pacenation.us](http://www.pacenation.us)

Visit [www.energy.gov/energysaver](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver) and [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for **federal programs** available.

For more information about **Michigan programs** to help lower energy costs and reduce energy waste, visit [www.michigan.gov/energy](http://www.michigan.gov/energy)